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THE GREAT ORIENTAL WAR. ARDABAN CAPTURED BY THE RUSSIANS. THE DANUBIAN ARMY PREPARING TO CROSS NEAR

GIURGEVO. The Russians bave captured Ardaban, an important strategic position on one of the main roads leading toward Erzerum. The place only withstood a bombardment of three hours, when upon the advance of the Russian troops the Turks fled, leaving valuable supplies in the invader's hands. The distribution of Russian troops along the Danube proceeds actively. The principal portion of the army is in the neighborhood of Giurgevo, where it is supposed they may cross over, landing above

THE CAMPAIGN IN ASIA MINOR. AEDADAN CAPTURED BY THE RUSSIANS-FLIGHT OF THE TURKISH GARRISON-GUNS AND STORES

LEFT WITH THE VICTORS. St. Petersburg, May 20, 1877. The following is the official account of the battle of Ardaban telegraphed by Gen. Melikoff to the

Grand Duke Michael: The outworks of Ardaban, its fortifications, citidal, 60 guns, immense stores of provisions and ammunition, and the camp formerly occupied by 14 battalions of Turks he at the feet of the Czar. On Thursday, May 17, the admirable fire of our artillery between three and six o'clock in the afternoon made a breach in the walls. At six o'clock the Errvan, Tiflis, and Baku regiments, and the sappers advanced to the assault. The enemy could not withstand the enslaught and fled, leaving a great number of dead. At nine o'clock our troops traversed the whole town and fortifications, the bands playing the national anthem. The troops are full of enthusiasm. Our loss is believed to be one officer and 50 soldiers killed, four officers and 180 wounded. I cannot find sufficient words of praise for the courage and coolness of our young soldiers, or for the good disposition of the troops made by the officers. A solemn service will be held at the central point of the fortifications."

THE TURKISH VERSION OF THE ARDABAN APPAIR. LONDON, May 20, 1877. A Reuter telegram, dated Erzerum, May 19, states that on Friday, the 18th inst., two attacks on the Turkish position at Ardaban were repulsed along the

whole line, but in the evening the Russians resumed the offensive. The Russians have since cut the telegraph wires and no further news has been received. THE MILITARY SITUATION OUTLINED. LONDON, May 20, 1877.

The intelligence from Tiflis and Van illustrates the progress of events in Asia Minor. The first attack on Batum was a feint to cover operations or the other side of the Kolova range. The Turks had a strong position on the hights south of the River Tscharuk, which in turn was commanded by a force and field batteries on the northern slope of the Kolova where it forms the southern boundary of the Choruk Plain. The continuation of the Kolova chain, forming the southern and eastern boundary of the Choruk Plain, is called Khatzubanī. In order to quite shut in Batum on the land side, it was necessary to oust the Turks from their position, on the Kolova so as to flank their position on the river hights lower down. The Russians were unable to force either position, but have succeeded in half turning the Turkish position on the river by occupying the Khatzubani Hights. The next battle will result either in the occupation of the lower Kolova or in the complete defeat of the Russians, who will be thrown back on Osurgethi, but of this the Russians in Tiflis appear to have no fear. The movement is regarded there as having been successit is a further step to the complete invest ment of Batum. It is said, however, that the Rus sian commander exceeded his instructions, and it is not denied that the losses have been heavy. Each side carried off its own dead and wounded. Many of the latter have arrived at Osurgethi.

KARS HEMMED IN BY RUSSIANS. The Russian third or Erwan column has arrived at Utchkelisse [see map], and an advanced guard pushed forward to near Jeranos and Chamur, about half way between Bayazid and Erzerum. From Jeranes a road leads across the Agry range to Kagisman, which is also in the hands of the Russians. From Kagisman another road leads to Getahevan on the southern route from Kars to Erzerum. Thus east, north, and south of Kars the mountain passes and roads are in Russian hands, and one of the outlets of these passes to the Kars district with the means of its defense, namely, Ardaban, on the north, has just been captured by them. The Turks still hold the positions of Getsheven and Deli Musa on the south and south-west.

A detachment of Russians has arrived at Arnis, on Lake Van, and is believed to be the advance guard of a column directed against Melaskert, on the Euphrates, south of Jeranos. There are on the other hand a large number of Euros congregating at Bittis and Diarbekir; but all are mescrably armed and wretchedly mounted. From all this it would seem that the center advance of the Russian around and before Kars is being held back, while the right and left wings are being pushed forward with the intention of outflanking Mukhtar Pasha's position at and south of Bardess (a place between Deli Musa and Kars), but the roads and weather are bad and the advance proportionally slow.
INCIDENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

A Constantinople telegram says the Russians lost 300 killed and wounded in the skirmish near Kars. The Duily News's special from Erzerum reports that "the Russians are commencing investment operations at Kars." This news is confirmed by an other depatch from Erzerum, the Russian neadquar

A dispatch from Batam says the Russians to the vicinity of Tchurukson have sacked and barned all the villages, and massacred the women, old men,

Esmer's telegram from Exerum May 18 says "Communication is becoming difficult. The wires to Karcare broken. The Russians maintain their positions in the neighborhood of Kars. A battle is

A Bayazid telegram says: "The Turks at Van compelled the left wing of the Russians to fall back on lock on the borders of Ottoman territory."

THE DANUBIAN CAMPAIGN. DESTRUCTION OF THE RUSSIAN TROOPS-THE MAIN "ARMY OFPOSITE RUSTCHUK-THE TURKS TO BE FORCED TO FIGHT IN THE OPEN FIELD.

LOSDON, May 20, 1877. The week's telegrams confirm the Russian advance to the Aluta at Turna-Magureli, Islash, and Simmitza. The forces netually at these places are only advance posts. The main body is distributed in the rear between Alexandria, Komano, and Ruschede Vede, 58,000 being at the latter place, whence good roads lead to Turna-Magureli and Simetiza; 14,000 are at Alexandria, 16,000 at Komani, and 16,000 at Karakal. There are thus in what may be termed the center advance, between the Aluta and Vede, 101,000 men. As regards the extreme right, 15 field batteries have been sent, part to Turn-Severin and part to Kalafat. Two batteries have arrived at Vireicorava, the terminus of the Koumania railway. This movement of artillery further west, coupled with the constant arrival of detachments of sappers and pioneers, with the other forces now amounting to some 140,000 west of Krajova, leaves little doubt that the Russians intend to turn Widdin. Everything goes to show their campaign will be directed

these points there are now 35,000 men, exclusive of At Kirnogi and Olteneitza there are 10,000 and at

with a view to compel the Turks to fight in the open

field. The chief concentration on the left and ex-

treme left is at Giurgevo and Slobosia. Between

any flank attack from Silistria. Thence to Braila there is only a chain of Cossack outposts, but at Slobosia there are 8,000 exclusive of cavalry and artillery. On the Galatz, Reni, and Ismail line there has been no increase of men, but a notable increase of defensive works in the shape of batteries. All these arrangements and the disposition so far of the Russian troops show that the attempts to cross into the Dobrudja are feints. The chief concentrations are at and near Giurgevo and on the Aluta line. A Berlin telegram confirming this says: "Advices from Ginrgevo of this date say the movements of the Russians show that their chief point of operations will be the Upper Danube. The movements at the mouth of the Danube are mere feints."

A telegram from St. Petersburg, on Saturday, says : The Czar will start for the headquarters of the army on the 21st inst., arriving on the 25th or 26th. He will be accompanied by the Czarowitz. It is believed his arrival will coincide with the com mencement of operations on the Danube by the Russians, whose concentration is nearly completed.'

Referring to the general aspects of the campaign

the Vienna correspondent of The Time says:

For some time a movement or a large scale of Russian treops westward has been observed, which was supposed to be directed to Simultan and Turna-Magureli, which seemed to reveal an intention of crossing there with one column to operate in the rear of the Turkish positions of Russianki, Simula, and Varina, or clse toward Tirnova and the Baikan passes. As far as trustworthy intelligence goes, the Russians do not seem to have gone much forther wessward than Slatina, on the Aluta, and Korha, from which there is a fair road down to the Dannies at Turna-Margurel and Stadica. It is ramoted that a portion of the treops which irrived at Slatina are destined for Krajova and Turn-Severin, to act with the Russian army cerps already assembled there. This agrees with the report that the Russian Embassador at Vienna had been instructed to explain the necessity imposed on the Bussian commander of operating beyond the Aluta, which was the boundary agreed upon between the two Governments, beyond which the Russian right wing was not to extend toward the trouter of Austria. This report, if true, only shows how uit city linsery it is between the true times of demarkation to military operations, the the Vienna correspondent of The Times says:

The Bucharest telegram to The Times thus describes

thempts to ascertain the number, caliber, and per tench of the other batteries on the respective six is Damble. Four monitors appeared before Isani-rially. One returned to the mouth of the Damb-ther went to Tutcha, and the other two remain wang the Russians at Isani. The Russians larve ying experiments with Krupp sawais fired mo-ver. They succeeded in exploiting them under warments flying a great distance. The Romandia o much in need of officers that they intend to to on in need of officers that they intend to tremma-give grades to the first class of the Mulitary

The experience which the Russians had of the Turk-ish needle-gun during the first few days of the campelen has caused reinforcements to be dispetched to Roumania and the Cancasus. In Roumania the tire, corps which

It is said the Russians will establish a camp in Northern Moldavia, where large transports are ar riving from Poland. A Widdin dispatch reports that 6,000 Circassians

are joining the Turkish army as volunteers. MOVEMENTS OF THE BUSSIAN COMMANDER.

The Telegraph's Bucharest dispatch states that the Grand Duke Nichelas will transfer his headquarters to Bucharest on Sunday morning. The Prince has offered him his Summer palace, but he will probably stay at the Russian Mission, while his immediate personal suite and staff will be lodged at Cotroceni. He is expected to remain here about five weeks, by which time three army corps will probably be formally established in Bulgaria, when he will definitively take the field. The Czarowitz is also announced to arrive in Bucharest shortly, as he will witness the crossing of the Danabe.

A Lom-Palanka (May 18) telegram says: "The report received here of a Roumanian vessel full of fussian soldiers having been sunk by the Turks is onfirmed." Nothing has been heard of this before, It is probably untrue.

BUCHARIST, Saturday, May 19, 1877. A freight train collided with a troop train yesterlay. Seven wagons were wrecked. Several were killed and many wounded. One Russian General has since died from his injuries.

THE CAUCASIAN CAMPAIGN.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 20, 1977. An official bulletin announces that the Turkish orces operating near Lukum Kalch (north of Poti were attacked by 5,700 Russians near Siel. The Turks completely annihilated a company of Cossacks They took five prisoners besides some arms and provisions. The fighting continues. The fleet has destroyed Hourgdjardjare.

LONDON, May 20, 1877. Renter's Constantinople dispatch says some anx-ety is felt here as to whether the Sukromkalch expedition will succeed in raising an insucrection in Caucasus, Eight thousand troops, 1,500 Circas sue, 50,000 rifles, and some mountain batteries ave been dispatched thither.

RUSSO-TURKISH WAR NOTES.

LOSDON, May 20, 1877. The St. Petersburg newspaper, .The New Time, recently published an article declaring that Russia is as much entitled to the right of passage to the Mediterranean by way of the Bosphorous and Dardanelles as England is to use the Suez canal.

Mr. Gladstone will speak at Birmingham next week. It is reported that this is the beginning of a Liberal agitation against the Government's Eastern policy similar to that of last Summer. Renter's Constantinople telegram says: "The Prince

of Reuss, the German Embassador, and Count Ziehy, the Austrian Embassador, have not received identical instructions. Count Ziehy is ordered to await a favorable noment for offering mediation, and to assure the Porte tient Austria still desires the maintenance of the integ

A licular telegram from Port Said says: "The British squadron has left here, the Hetspur alone remaining." The Daily News's Vienna dispatch asserts that the commander of Sebastopol has ordered civilians to quit that

city, as an attack is expected. The Army and Navy Gazette says all applications of retired officers for permission to enter the Turkish navy are refused by the Admiralty.

The Standard's Pesth correspondent says: "Some extreme Hungarian papers domand that Count Andrassy should treat the approach of the Russians to the neigh borhood of the Austrian frontiers as a casus bells. Mintary men consider hat the time has arrived for concen-Kalarash an advance post of 4,000, to guard against traing a corps of observation in Transylvania. I hear THE SCENE OF CONFLICT IN ASIA MINOR.



The town of Ardaban, which has been captured by the Russians, is about 40 miles from Achalzich (see map), the Russian post whence the invading set out. It is 50 miles from Kars Ardaban is a place of great strategic importance, being situated between two mountain chains, one separating it from Kars, the other from the Its possession gives the Russians command of a great valley as far as the Souganlu mountains where the way is barred by Mukthar Pasha forces which hold a claim of posts by which they main tain communication with Kars. The fall of Ardaban will enable the Russian army which invested it to car diversion that may lead to the speedy surrender of that

The immediate capture of Kars has, however, a very subordinate importance to that which it had in the last war; for though the Russians considerably excelled in numbers then also, this superiority was not such as to allow of their leaving a corps of observation for the blockade of Kars, and advancing with the rest of their forces on Erzerum. They then had to sit down for months before the town, and wait till they had reduced it by famine; while all that has become known of their present advance leaves little doubt that the object of their present operations is Erzerum, and not Kars. The simultaneous advance by the caravan road from Bayazid to Erzeram on the left, from Alexandropol to Kars in the toward the vailey of the Tshuruk (or Achamur, as the Russian bulletins have it), would seem to leave little noubt about this. All these lines of advance converge on The center of the Russian army, which eems to form the bulk of it, has advanced from Alexandropel, and, after leaving a corps of observa-tion at Kars, there is nothing to stop it as far as the onganiu Mountain, which forms the watershed between the Aras and the Kars Chai, an afflicent of the Arpa Chai, which, after forming for some distance the frontier line between Furkey and Russia, also joins the Aras. There are two passes leading over the Souganla Mountain, the nore northerly and difficult one by Kistillisse, over which Paskiewitz mude his way in 1829, while the Turks were waiting for him on the southerly road by Metshingrad, for which they also paid the penalty. According to the buile tins of Mukhtar Pasha, he expected an immediate advance in this direction, for, leaving the garrison of Kars to its fate, he took mue battalions, and retired to Bardess, above Della Musa, which lies in the valley of the Aras. and where the two roads coming down from the passes of the Songaniu meet. As he cannot well intend to bur the bulk of the Russian army advancing by the center with he nine battalions which he has brought with him from Kars, it may be supposed that he means to concentrate there whatever available forces he may have, either to stop the Russians in their passage of one or other of the junction of the two roads, so as to prevent the debouching of the Russian force into the plain of the Aras. The awkward thing is that, besides this central wdvance, there is one from both wings also-on the left, from Bayazid, by the direct caravan road to Erzerum, and on the right by the valley of

from Sendin that military preparations of the Servious | erals did not share these convictions, or shared them are now quite evident. Prince Milan to-day nominated Col. Drugaschevitch chief of staff, and ordered Gen. Olimpies to resume command on the Drina, toward which the artillery are marching."

THE GREAT BRITISH DEBATE. DISSENSION CAUSED IN THE LIBERAL RANKS BY MR.

GLADSTONE'S ANTI-TURKISH RESOLUTIONS-HAR-MONY PARTIALLY RESTORED BY HIS CONCES-SIONS-THE RADICALS DISSATISFIED WITH THE COMPROMISE-MR. GLADSTONE'S GREAT SPEECH-THE PEOPLE IN ACCORD WITH HIM. FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

LONDON, May 10 .- Since Saturday, the date of my last letter, the political situation has changed addealy, and for the worse. The extraordinary pressure put upon Mr. Gladstone to withdraw his esolutions had a partial success. He modified one, the second, and improved it, but announced that he should not think it necessary to take a division on tinct policy on the Eastern question. The secret had been well kept. It is understood that Mr. Gladstone actually gave way on Saturday, but so fearful of publicity were those who had exterted this sar reader from their old chief, that the majority of Liberals learned it for the first time in the itemse on Monday afternoon. The official party professed to dread Mr. Chamberlaio, whose relations with Mr. Gladstone have of late been somewhat intimate They had reason to drawl still more Mr. Gladstone own revolt against the humiliation imposed on him up of the Liberal party. It has not averted it. It may have postponed it, though even that is double ful. The causes which threatened a dissolution of that party have not been removed. They did not egia with this dispute; they will not end with its essation. The divergence of opinion respecting Mr. Gladstone's resolutions was only one mainfestation of an internal conflict which has long gote on, and yearly becomes more strenuous. What I wrote last week about the condition of the Liberal party is just as true as it was then. Between the officials who sit on the front bench and the Radicals below the gangway, there are so few points of political contact that the party organization has come to be rather a tradition than a vital force. Its more radical members, having more active perceptions and more energetic purposes, are the first to recognize the futility of mere names. Hence the repreach brough against them that they are working to break up the party. They are doing nothing of the kind. Mr. Chamberlam and his allies have simply discovered that the objects they have most at heart are not likely to be promoted by the Liberal party under its present leadership. They are, as I understand them, perfectly willing to go on under the old name and even to use the old machinery. But they consider that the mission of liberalizing England would be advanced by the transfer of some of the official chiefs of the party to the back benches; or even to the opposite side of the House. They mean that the Liberal party shall be led by men of liberal views, or that its present leaders shall seek other followers.

Some of these radical Liberals happened to have strong convictions on the Turkish policy of the Government. These convictions were, substantially, Mr. Gladstone's convictions. Hence the alliance which sprang up between them. The official Lib-

Mukhtar Pasha. This is even more the case with the road by which the

Russian right wing seems to be making preparations to advance from the Batum side up the valley of the Tshu ruk Su. The object of the advance from this side also and therefore defended by the Turkish fleet, and not to be starved out like Kars, a mere blockade of Batum is s much the more out of the question as the road from be easily barred, so that no fear need be entertained of any action of the Turkish garrison of Batum in the rear of a force advancing up the valley. The advance on Batum was, therefore, probably a feint to mask the ad vance of the left wing up the valley of the Tshuruk Su

Once in the Valley of the Tshurnk So, the Russian north-east-that is, to the rear, in me or less, of the two positions which bar the way of the other two Russian columns. As it may be supposed that the Russians will them will support the advance of the other two, and if the wing columns come on sooner, the position of come untenable, and he will be objuged to take up a itself of some ally attacking one or the other of the Russian columns before they can unite, or unless stans may possibly be heard of in the neighborhood of

If this be so it will primarily be due to the vast supe riorit- of the flussian army, and will show the opinion of those to be right who thought that the first and most energetic advance would be on this most exposed slife of the Turkish frontier. The seben divisions of infantry and one of eavalry which form the framework of the Caucasan army ought, according to their nomal war strength, to consist of an effective force of some 130,000 men addition to this, from the adjoining mulitary district of sent off to the Caucasus. Even if these are merely to lars to march off. The Turkish force opposed can lurs, besides the Kurds and other irregulars, with some Corps d'Armée of Anatolia and Erzeram, with all its of Bagdad. The Russians seem to have estimated the Turkish force at even less than this, for a Russian ac count of the Turkish Orace de Batasite in Turkish Arme nia states that in Kars there were twenty-one buttalion with eight field batteries, wideh might have been so far true; but a portion could always b withdrawn, as was the case with Mukhtar Pasha who took nine battallous with him. Then there were eight battalions stated to be at Payazid, first, now that Hayazid is taken, and that the Turkish force, which, according to the Russian account, only numbered 1,700 men, has withdrawn, there seems nothing to stop this left column from moving up to the plateau of the Indagh, which forms a strong defensive position, but lies to the south-west of Ardost, where the road coming down from the Songaniu meet, cons

in such a lukewarm way that they were opposed to expressing them. Hence the conflict between them on the one side, and Mr. Gladstone, supported by the independent Liberals, on the other. When Mr. Gladstone abandoned his third and fourth resolutions, he abandoned at the same time his allies-men who had risked a good deal to support him, not only members of the House of Commons but members of the Liberal party all over the country. It is no cause for wonder if this has produced some It would be great cause for wonder if it had pro-

duced a restoration of complete harmony. Mr. Gladstone's own account of the reasons which brought about this change of plan is of course true ns far as it goes. He has given giveral accounts, not inconsistent but more or use nalike. The latest and most explicit-in his letter to Mr. Heward-hardly goes below the sariace. He tornet, he says, that by making a change in his second, is dution, and by announcing beforebased the conclusion he had come to independently, not to take a division on the third and fearth resolutions, he could a gain the support of many valued friends. But this is no explanation of motives or influences. There were, so far as is known, two controlling is due, sea -the persenal appeals of Mr. Bright and Earl Counville, and the belief that an open split in the party might thus be

How far this latter expectation was realized may be seen from what bappened their night in the House, and has since happened. The decigration of Mr. Gladstana's purpose was followed by a scene of stormy confusion which has had no procedent or parallel in this generation. For a moment the Tories entated to believe that the breach between Mr. Gladstone and the front Lench had really been icaled. But when Lord Harrington rose to advise Sir John Lubbook to withdraw his nation for the previous question, and Sir John Lubbook withdrew it accordingly, it was seen that a compromise had been agreed on. The Torics all at once discovered that they were to be belief, for the time, of the pleasure of seeing half the Liberal party go into one aby, and half into the ories. They discovered also that the Liberal shot once more should from the duty of declaring a policy of their own (for that is what Mr. Gladstone's revival amounts to). The Liberals, as Mr. Sallivan said, and executed the dangerous and generally disastrous nearenver of characing front in the face of the enemy. Sir Stafford Northcote found himself in the position of having granted a Government wight for a departe on one set of resolutions which was now to be directed to another and far less significant set. He rose and said he thought the position of the House ridiculous. If it were not ridiculous at that moment it soon became so. For two hours and a half a wrangle went on between Mr. Gladstone. wrangle went on between Mr. Gladstone, the Tory chiefs, the Liberal chiefs, the independent Liberals, and even some of the smaller fry-the Speaker valuely striving for decorum meanwhile. They agreed that the House was in a robeulous position, but disputed who was responsible for it; and each disputant contributed his quota to made a series of experiments or attempts to conduct exthe general stock of ridiculousness. In their eagerness to be heard, members wrestled with each other for the floor-literally wrestled and tugged at each others' coat-tails. There were constant calls to order. Mr. Gladstone, whose knowledge of parlia-

See Fifth Page.

WASHINGTON.

FUSEL OIL. DISTILLERS BEGGING TO BE PERMITTED NOT TO DESTROY IT.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, May 20 .- In the distillation of

whisky a considerable quantity of fusel oil is produced, which, under the present regulations of the Treasury Department, is required to be destroyed on the premises of the distiller. The reason for the issue of such an order as this is that by mixing fusel oil with spirits large quantities of the latter might be removed from the distillery under the name of the former without detection, and the saving of internal revenue tax thus effected would be sufficient to pay the expenses of subsequently separating the oil from the spirits and still leave a large margin for profit. For instance, experiments made in the interest of the Treasury Department show that on gallon of fuscioit mixed with five gailons of whisky causes the whole mass to appear like oil, so that the rev enue officers would be unable by ordinary means to deteet the presence of whisky. Prominent distillers, both in the East and the West, have been urging apon the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to modify this order so as to allow them to sell the fusel oil. They assert it has a commercial value. The department has no desire to deprive the distillers of the advantage they might derive from the sale of any product of distillation, but until some one devises a method of protecting the Government and preventing the manufacture and sale of crooked whisky by removing it from distilleries under the pretense that it is fusel oil the present orders will be

PENSION CONSOLIDATIONS. SOME REASONS IN FAVOR OF IT-PENSIONERS NOT TO BE INCONVENIENCED.

Washington, May 20 .- In response to inuiries concerning the force of some objections which have been urged against the consolidation of the pension agencies, the following information has been obtained from the Interior Department and other official source showing that the recent order for consolidation, while reducing the cost of the Government of paying the pen-

dons, will not injuriously affect but rather promote the personal interests of the pensioners :

As the law now stands, each pensioner is paid by the check of the pension agent, drawn upon some Govern ment depository and mailed to him at his Post-Office address, or delivered into his own hand if he chooses t call at the agency for it .. At every payment each per sioner is required to execute a voucher acknowledging receipt of the payment, and proving his identwo witnesses. If the witness will go with outh without charge; if they do not go there, or tents which does not usually exceed 25 cents in each case. But few pensioners live so near an agency agency in order to save the magistrate's fee; and it is a checks execute a voucher before a magistrate, and take of New-York and Pennsylvania, under the present ar of their pensioners to apply in person for their pen so apply, while in Indiana only 5 per centum apply in person. These estimates suppose that all apply in person who reside at of the agencies, while it is a fact that many of these re-ceive their checks through the mail. Under the consoli-dation not less than 95 per cent of the pensioners will receive their checks precisely as heretofore. The agen-cies at the great cides, Boston, New-York-including Brooklyn-Philanelphia, Phisburga, Washington, De-troit, Milwanker, Louisyille, and 85. Louis, are left, and these make more personal navments than the other 47.

se make more personne pay means and the cheese all together.

It almost necessary evil of the present extensive indistinct has been the issue of many cheese upon it ideal National bank, for the collection of which the somer has too often een compelied to pay a fee of each sund upward. Under the consolidar it is hoped that this may be remedied to ery great extent by making all cheeks onyanie at second of the great commercial cities of the country, saving to the pensioners as a body in this way will far exceed any additional expense which will be under the payment of magnetiates' fees upon the exciton that personners are lands of the pensioner. The extent of the youthers and by issuing a c eck which be equal to case in the lands of the pensioner. The

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

STAMP SALES AT BMALL OFFICES. Washington, May 20, 1877.

Ever since the new mode of compensating postnusters of the fourth class by commissions on the amount of sales of stamps, stamped envelopes, and postal o the Post-Office Department, and has made work for every special agent who could be spared to look after he trands which the system makes easy of perpetration. Hundreds of postmasters have been removed, and to make their punishment greater their names have been arnished to the press for publication, and yet, so stron is the temptation, that all the efforts of the department have proved inequal to the suppression of the illegal traffic. There seems to be only one mode to put a stop to it, and that is by the repeal of the law, and a return t the old plan of adjusting salaries on the basis of the stamps, &c., actually canceled in the respective effice Hustrations as to the manner in which the present his the following facts will furnish a further illustration A special agent who has been engaged in the South est for some time past, send to the Department an affidavit ende by a merchant who is engaged in regulabusiness in that locality, in which he states that he h received very large amounts of postage strains of the ents, and ten cents from persons whose names as iven, with the sams received from each. There are ight or ten names given, with the amounts received, and dates, etc. One firm alone, a member of which is atmoster, has paid him \$1,389 in samps, in values uging from \$3 to \$200 at a payment. In every case posimister or a member of a firm in which there is a profinester. In some cases a discount was made by a person disposing of the story of from the to seven person to value of the story which is every by this aperion is over \$2.600, on when the Government is make in a over \$2.600, on when the Government is make in lands to pay in increased saturies a commission of by \$1.200 to \$1.000, which gives into the posted softer dishences postmations, as a general thing local strong to you are the necessary of the make allows to punish the obtainers become to encount the necessary of the objects when a removal is much the is no gaternaty that the new most will not track move saturing that his professors. Notwidestrating, it may insent see of the effort, the desarration cannot consider to unique the case is composed to containly purely the official whenever attention is called to invegaliar sates.

A PPPLE MONEY (LAAM LARGE ACCE) A PRIZE-MONEY CLAIM DEFEATED.

The Supreme Court of the District of Comola, in General Term, on Friday decided the celeated suit of Admiral Porter and the obleers and men The North Atlantic squadron for prize money on acount of the sopture of Richmond. In 1874, nine years of the North Aflancie Squadron, claiming in the again gate about \$3,000,000 in prize money for the part take by the squadron in the caseure of Elemand. The inde-

BOILER EXPERIMENTS THIS YEAR. About three or four years ago Congress ap-

propriated \$100,000 to be expended in experiments t letermine the causes of steam boiler explosions. During the then ensuing season a commission, of which the Su pervising inspector of steam vessels was the chairman, pertinents at Sandy Hook and Pittsburgh. During that summer about one-half of the whole appropriation was expended without results of any scientific value. The ext season, still hoging to accomplish something, the Secretary of the Treasury placed a gentleman of scientific attainments at the head of the commission, but its work during that year was attended with no more satis-

tinue the experiments at Sandy Hook and to conduct those that are to be made during the present season as Pittsburgh. Of the original appropriation only about \$8,000 now remain. When the appointment of this commission was first authorized by Congress it met the ap probation of all the leading scientific men and mechanical engineers of the country. Numerous letters were recollectineers of the country. Admerous setters were re-ceived congratulating the Government upon its determi-nation to investigate this most invertant subject, and many paper-suggesting theories or lines of experiment were submitted to the commission. Us to the present time no report of any character bearing on the subject has been received from the commission, and fears seen to be entertained at the Tenaury Department that the whole \$100,000 will be expended without any very sp-preciable increase in our knowledge of the causes of steam boiler explosions.

The latest sensational story started in Washincton is that, if it should appear that Gen. Garfield has no chance to be elected. Speaker of the House, the Gencral will join Senator Blaine in an attack upon the Ad ministration. Of course no such report as this gains the fermation. In the first place, no one has yet any authority to assert that Senator Blaine will attack the Adpinistration, or that he will not give to President Hayes an carnest and effectual support. But whatever he may do, Gen. Garfield is looked upon by the President as one of his most trusted advisers, and without consultation with him (for he is not now in Washington) it may be confidently asserted that nothing is further from his Speakership and the Senatorship certainly was not au-thorized by Gen. Garffeld himself.

ECONOMY IN THE ENGRAVING BUREAU.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is now working very smoothly under the new organization.
With a reduction in its force which causes a saving of about \$1,000 a day, or \$300,000 a year, the bureau is now turning out as much work as it formerly did with the larger force. It could still increase its production without increasing the number of employes. Indeed, a small additional defuction of force will probably take place at the end of the present month. As an instance of voluntary economy on the part of an Administration, especially when an adverse majority in the House of Representatives has reduced appropriations in many departments much lower than the interests of the public service allow, this is almost without parallel.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1877.

On Monday last Secretary Sacrman tendered the appointment of Solicitor of the Treasury to ex-Gov. Chameriain of South Carolina. The offer was made by the wish of the President, who also urged its acceptance upon ex-Gov. Chamberlain. The Governor felt obliged to de-

The long contest over the Post-Office at Richmond, Va., as been settled, and Miss Van Lew, appointed by Gen. Grant, is to be superseded by W. W. Forbes. Mr. Forbes was a Whig before the war, and has since been a Repub lican. He holds a high social position in Richmond, and scena not to have gained the personal consity of the Democrats by his association with the Republican party. It is understood that he has already effected the most unportant successinate appointments in the office to Conservative Democrats, one of whom was a candidate, and upon whose appointment the President at one time looked with some favor.

Col. J. D. Brady, a native of Virginia, who served in the Union Army, has been appointed by the President Colin place of George H. Richards, originally of Maine but who has been holding office in Virginia for the last 12 years. This is the first appointment of the kind made by the President, and is supposed to indicate the policy of preference for native Republicans in appointment to offices in the South. Both the above named gentlemen are Republicans.

The Consul-General of the United States at Berlin has officially informed the Department of State of the special international exhibition for leather and the manufactures of leather to be held in that city from the 29th of September next. The partioniars of this fair were specially announced in The Thibuse several weeks ago.

The removal of James E. Calloway as Secretary of the Territory of Montana, James H. Milis having been appointed in his phase, is the necessary sequel to Gov. Ports's vindication. Calloway has been one of the most active promoters of the charges against the Governor. James H. Mills has been appointed his successor.

The Post-Office Department gives notice that a direct mail for Brazil will be dispatched from New-York by the

Edward J. Beale, who arrived a few days ago, imme. diately called upon the President and Secretary of State and tendered his resignation as United States Minister to Austria, to take effect upon the appointment of his suc-

General Appraiser of Merchandise for the South is not General Apparatus of the Revised Statutes. Therefore, ex-Con-gressman Morey of Louisiana no longer holds the place. Collector Mills at Lynchburg telegraphs that the shoot-

ing affair in that district resulted in the shooting of four illicit distillers and one citizen, and not of four United States officers as was at first supposed. Chief-Justice Lewis of Washington Territory has ten-

dered his resimation. It has been accepted, but no appointment has yet been made to fill the vacancy.

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF BRUSSELS.

SPONEN 880 MILES FROM LIVERPOOL-ALL WELL ON BOARD. The steamship Celtic arrived in this port

yesterday shormoon, and the officers report that they spoke the City of Brussels on May 14 in Intitude 43° 52'. longitude 322 207, 800 miles from Liverpool. The Celtic left Liverpool the previous Thursday night, and a conunual outlinek was kept for the delayed vessel. When the City of Brussels was first sighted the observers on the Cellie were surprised, expecting to see a partially disabled and crippled steamer. As the CDy of Brussels, however, curse marer, she was rendily recognized, and preparations were at once made on board the Celtic for call sait, and appeared in excellent trim. The Celtio stopped her engines, and by signals asked if assistance cus needed. The signals on the City of Benssels reported all well on board, and plenty of everything Brussels was black with the pilgritus, who waved hats the officers of the Cette the crew and ensembers seemed in the heat of sourits. The vened was under all the sail she could early, and with a continuance of far wind it is expected that she will reach Liverpool to-day. Lownes, May 20, 1877.

The Norwegian bark Haskon Haskonsen, which arrived at Queenstown yesterday and reported sassion in man Line steamer (nedoubtedly the City of itiosely on the morning of Mosday. May 14, as tele-traphed i at neget, new reports that the City of Brunsels was making about seven raties per hour.

The Anchor line steamer Saturdan, from New-York April 20 for Bristol, which exploded her boiler April o, latting her captain, three engineers, two firemen, and one contributer, errived in the Bristol Channel to-day.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH, OMARIA, Neb., May 20.—The steamboat Don Cam-ton was sanged and sunx above shour city on Friday. No yes were look.

OMARA, Neb., May 20.—The steamer Cameron and on Friday. See had a cargo value 1 at \$120,000, chiefy Portsynag, Penn., May 20.-Abs Jones, another

Chesten, Pean., May 20.—A gas producer at the Rester holing Mills exploded last evening causing damage of the amount of \$7,000 and seriously wounding two men.

MIDDLETOWS, N. V., May 20.—Aliem Rebinson, a butcher of Washen, Occope County, in a fit of delifian transmiss, yesterday committed suicide by plunging a kalfe into his abdone.

PHILADELPHIA, May 20.—Herbert Wells yesterday

shot and probably fatally wounded his brother dames. Here bert has been an ilmate of a banatic asylum and is undoubt-shy instanc. He was arrested. MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., May 20,-John Tierney, age

9 years, son of an Erie tracigman, was fittally shot in the berd by the accidental discharge of a pistof in the bands of Philip Meshier, age 14, while they were limiting frogs yesterday. TOPERS, Kan. May 20.—An excussion train on the Atchram, Popeka and Santa Fe nationed ran into a washout hear Libenwood, 720 miles west of here, on Friday over 1 g. One passenger was killed and seven persons were injured, but not dangerously.

CONCORD, N. II., May 20.—In the case of Buzzell, who was tried for the morder of the Hansen girl and acquisted, and who, by Cook's recent confession, planned and tole part in i, the Attempt General has decised that me can be dred as an accessory before the fact. But has been refused.